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4. An imaging system [(1)] as claimed in Claim 3, in which the diverging sheets [(51,53)] bow towards the planar sheet [(52)].

5. An imaging system [(1)] as claimed in Claim 4, in which the sheets of light [(48)] are symmetric about a plane that is transverse to the planar sheet [(52)] and which comprises a median ray [(49)] of the planar sheet [(52)].

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6. An imaging system [(1)] as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding claim], in which the camera [(2)] and light stripe projector [(4)] are mounted together on a support [(6)] that rises above an edge [(10)] of the support surface [(12)].

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7. An imaging system [(1)] as claimed in Claim 6, in which the light stripe projector [(4)] is below the camera [(2)].

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8. An imaging system as claimed in Claim 1 [any preceding claim], in which the light stripes are individually indistinguishable, and the [imaging system includes means for identifying individual stripes by labelling the series of stripes] processor is adapted to identify individual stripes by determining their position within the series of stripes.

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9. An imaging system as claimed in Claim 1 [any of Claims 1 to 7], in which the light stripes are made individually distinguishable by spatial modulation.

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10. A method of imaging a document [(30)] using a document imaging system [(1)] comprising a support surface [(12)], a light stripe projector [(4)], a camera [(2)] having a detector array [(22)], a processor [(25)], in
5 which the method comprises the steps of:

- i) placing the document [(30)] on the support surface [(12)];
- 10 ii) using the light stripe projector [(4)] to project a plurality of diverging sheets of light [(48)] that extend from the projector [(4)] towards the document [(30)];
- iii) arranging the light stripe projector [(4)] so that
15 the sheets of light [(48)] fall on the document [(30)] to produce a series of light stripes [(35)] on the document [(30)];
- iv) using the camera [(2)] to capture with the detector
20 array [(22)] an image [(31,33)] of the document [(30)] and of light stripes [(35)] projected onto the document [(30)];
- v) sending [(23)] from the detector array [(22)] to the
25 processor [(25)] data representative of the captured image [(31,33)] of the document [(30)] and of the light stripes [(35)]; and
- vi) using the processor [(25)] to calculate therefrom a
30 three-dimensional profile of the document [(30)] relative to a reference surface;

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[characterised in that] wherein the light stripe projector [(4)] projects adjacent sheets of light [(48)] with a relative divergence that varies laterally across the sheets so that the stripes [(35)] are concentrated on the
5 document [(30)] where the divergence is relatively low [(56)].